

ARGENTINA'S "INUTILIZADO" PERFIN ————— by Walter B. L. Bose

(Editor's note: in response to comments on the Argentine "INUTILIZADO" Perfin appearing in the June 1977 Bulletin, Walter B. L. Bose of Buenos Aires writes to explain that the Perfin is not a precancel. Mr. Bose is a distinguished South American philatelist and a long-time member of the Perfins Club, as indicated by his membership number 262. His detailed explanation concerning the "INUTILIZADO" Perfin is given below.)

It is never a specific Perfin, because it is only a sort of cancellation or annulation of postal stamps, presented by the editors of newspapers and periodicals for payment of their duties—monthly postage in bulk rates. These stamps were affixed on the receipt documents and the post office clerk "cancelled" them with the "INUTILIZADO" perforation.

In this meaning, the word "INUTILIZADO" is equal to "cancelled." These stamps were never affixed on correspondence. At first (1877-91) whole sheets of postage stamps were annulated with circular postmarks (with date) reading "EXPEDICION" (etc.) or a town postmark (ATALERA-Sta. Fe). After 1891 the use of dif-

ferent kinds of perforations began: in 1892 the initials "C y T" (Type I); then 1893-98 a "star" or a "hole"; after 1900 the word "INUTILIZADO", which was used until 1931.

On the documents of payment, the high values are common and the lower values are scarce, because a payment in fractions of "pesos" is rare.

The original machine for the "INUTILIZADO" perforation was in the Argentine Postal Museum when I was the director of it (1926-33). It perforated the word "INUTILIZADO" twice on one line (208 mm long).

Similar "perforation-cancellations" were described by George A. Fisher, Jr., on the "postal savings folder" of Japan (in our Bulletin for May 1977, No. 5).

(Further editor's note: illustrated below is a typical receipt document, furnished by Mr. Bose, which clearly shows how the "INUTILIZADO" perforation was used. Obviously, it was more like a check perforation than a stamp Perfin, and the positioning of perforated letters in the stamps was purely a matter of happenstance. The illustration is slightly reduced.)

